

## OFFICIALS ADMIT GRAVE SITUATION

Report Requested of German Government in Regard to Sinking of Lusitania.

FUTURE ACTION DEPENDS ON RESULT OF INQUIRY

President Wilson and His Cabinet Make the Affair Their Chief Consideration.

Shocked and appalled by the magnitude of the Lusitania disaster, with the probable loss of 137 American lives, President Wilson and his advisers are waiting for all the facts and for a crystallization of public opinion to aid in laying out the course the United States will pursue in this latest international complication—the gravest the President has faced since the outbreak of the European war.

Nowhere in administration circles is there any disposition to minimize the situation, but President Wilson, while seeking the facts, hopes that the country will assume an examining attitude and reserve full judgment until all complete information is at hand.

As details become coming in activities at the White House and the executive departments of the government disclosed how much administration officials realize the tenacity of the situation.

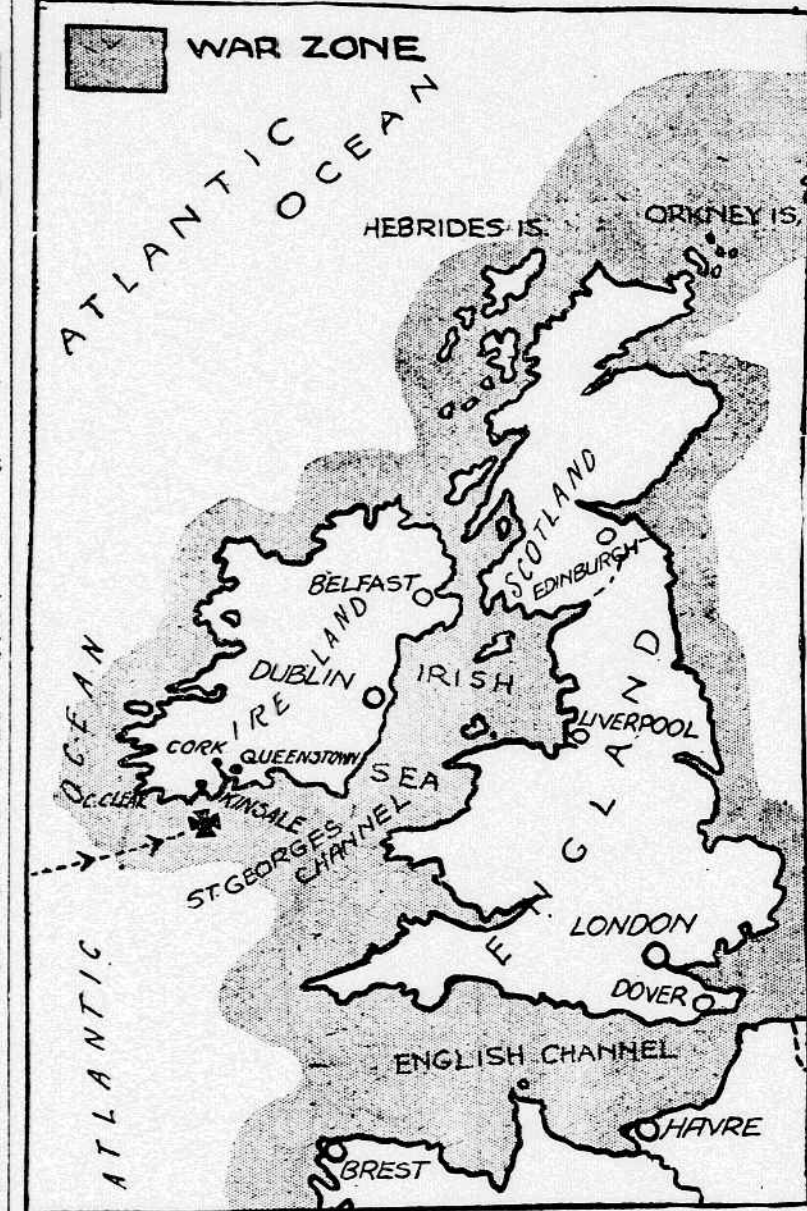
Request for Report From Germany.

Secretary Bryan cabled Ambassador Gerard at Berlin to informally ask the German government for its report of the disaster, and to Ambassador Page in London he sent messages urging renewed efforts to aid the suffering and gather information.

President Wilson, while he went to the golf links for his recreation, left strict instructions to be notified of any important dispatches. Cabinet officers who had planned a week-end holiday away from Washington canceled their plans and Secretary Garrison abandoned a week's official trip through the south.

The American consuls at Queenstown and vicinity were ordered to render

WHERE THE LUSITANIA WAS TORPEDOED.



every assistance to the injured and survivors and to take testimony.

Officials Visibly Depressed.

The President, Secretary Bryan and other members of the cabinet were visibly depressed. Persons who talked with them found them sick at heart and grieved at the horror of the catastrophe.

Notwithstanding that warnings had been given, it had been regarded as inconceivable by high officials that the threatened sinking of the vessel would actually be carried into effect.

The fact that the Lusitania was a British ship, flying the British flag, and even had contraband of war aboard, did not remove from their minds the ever-recurring thought that a hostile submarine deliberately destroyed the ship with the knowledge that hundreds of defenseless neutrals and women and children were aboard.

Everywhere that aspect overshadowed the legal phases of the case, for while there is said to be no precedent in international law for the attack without warning on a belligerent merchantman, it was realized that defense might be made on the charge that guns were mounted on the deck. That, however, the British government has denied.

Consider Attacks on Other Vessels.

In many quarters it was thought probable representations to Germany will be general, covering all the cases of attack on American vessels. It was pointed out that the case of the Gulfight, also torpedoed without warning, with a loss of three American lives, might be the basis for action by the United States, but that the Lusitania incident was the work of Leon C. Thresher, an American, on the British steamer Falaba, and the attack on German ships might be grouped as an indictment by the American government against Germany for failure to observe the rules of international law with respect to the lives of non-combatants.

The President returned to the White House from the golf links at noon and resumed reading dispatches. He continued to refuse to make any comment.

Talk of Convening Congress.

In official quarters and among diplomats there was apprehension that the American people might not consider representations sufficient. A special session of Congress has been talked of, but there has been no indication of it as yet from any official quarter.

Officials everywhere, sparing in their comment, realized that a word from the high officials of the government might weigh with public opinion before the facts had been received and digested.

Other international developments were completely overshadowed. The annexation of Belgium by Germany was hardly commented upon. The far eastern crisis, now averted, was almost totally eclipsed.

President Reads the Dispatches.

President Wilson arose early and read the newspapers and such official dispatches about the Lusitania as had been received before breakfast.

Telegrams from friends and relatives of passengers on the Lusitania began arriving at the White House early in the morning. They were immediately referred to the State Department.

While an air of gravity pervaded the White House, officials went about making arrangements to receive all messages being sent to the State Department and keeping the President in close touch with all branches of the government.

Concerned Over Public Opinion.

The chief concern of administration officials was the state of public opinion. Details began to come in. Ambassador Page at London advised the State Department that he has instructed the consul at Queenstown to care for the survivors and to furnish money where it is needed. Two American army officers have been sent to assist. His message said: "I have instructed our consul at Queenstown to care for the bodies of those who have been killed, to aid the survivors who lost all cash, and I have sent two army officers, Capt. Miller and Capt. Castle."

An Example of Placidity Shown by the President in Most Trying Situation

Confronted by the most serious situation in his administration—the sinking of the Lusitania and the loss of American lives—President Wilson this morning set the country an excellent example of placidity by going to the golf links, following his Saturday routine.

All that was known of the White House attitude was that the administration would not be swept off its feet and would await every fact before official action, if any, is taken.

The President's coolness under the circumstances and the attitude of White House officials generally were considered significant by those familiar with affairs around the executive offices as indicating a disposition not to permit the United States to be rushed into a conflict with Germany. There is little doubt that the President will wait with interest a concentration of public opinion on the subject, which will be manifested to him through the

## LIBAU IS CAPTURED BY GERMAN FORCES, BERLIN ANNOUNCES

Enormous Losses Said to Mark Continued Terrific Fighting in the East.

BRITISH RETAKE MORE TRENCHES IN THE WEST

Fierce Attack of Teutons in Vicinity of St. Juliens Reported Repulsed.

PETROGRAD CLAIMS GAINS

Operations in Direction of Mlava Said to Be Developing Well. Important Successes in Lomnitsa Valley.

LONDON, May 8.—Official announcement was made at the German war office today in Berlin that the city of Libau, in the province of Courland, Russia, has been captured by the Germans.

That German forces operating in Flanders have received a setback is the declaration of the French official statement issued today. It is declared that a fierce attack was delivered on the British lines located in the vicinity of St. Juliens, but they were repulsed, the enemy suffering heavy losses.

Some of the trenches lost by the British at Hill No. 60 when the Germans made their unexpected drive several days ago have been retaken. This last announcement would indicate that the British are, inch by inch, regaining the ground taken from them by the foe, as on previous days announcements have been made of the recapture of trenches by the British.

Casualties Enormous.

While Russians, Austrians and Germans are continuing to claim varying successes in the eastern area of war, one fact stands out prominently—that the fighting which continues all along the eastern line is probably the most terrific of the present war and that the casualties are correspondingly enormous.

Austria now claims that the German allies have crossed the Wisloka river, which has been the scene of terrible fighting for the past several days. Russia has insisted that the Germans and Austrians have been driven back on every occasion, but the most recent Petrograd advice fails to reiterate this assertion, leaving grounds for the belief that possibly the Kaiser's men have at last achieved their object.

Russians Are Pursued.

Strong Austrian troops in the Dukla-Rymanow district are along the Carpathian roads which the Russian troops are using in their retreat in a northerly direction.

The Russians are pursued by the German armies advancing across the Beskids, Vienna declares. Austro-German forces are declared to be repulsing desperate attacks of the Russians in the eastern sector of the Carpathian front, where the czar's forces are said to have suffered extreme losses.

In Galicia, Russian attempts to gain several points of vantage are reported in Vienna as having failed.

Slavs Claim Successes.

According to the Russian statement the Slavs continue to develop their successes in the direction of Mlava. The villages of Maricze and Grzymki have been occupied and counter attacks of the German allies have been repulsed, according to Petrograd.

Another attempt of the Poles to cross the Pilsa is said to have failed. In the direction of Mezolaborz six vigorous attacks of the foe were repulsed with the bayonet, the Russians declare, while they assert that in the valley of the Lomnitsa important successes have been gained.

Object of Invasion.

In the capture of Libau the Germans have gained one of the main objects of their invasion of the Baltic provinces of Russia. This movement, undertaken within the last fortnight, was designed to occupy Libau and Riga, two of the principal Russian ports on the Baltic, which would enable the Germans to harass Russian communications and strengthen their position.

The German movement in this quarter was one of the surprises of the war. The capture of Libau and Riga, two of the principal Russian ports on the Baltic, which would enable the Germans to harass Russian communications and strengthen their position.

Libau is an important seaport and industrial center. It is about seventy-five miles along the seacoast from the German border.

## CONCERN IS EXHIBITED AT GERMAN EMBASSY

Comment on News Withheld, However, in Absence of Count von Bernstorff.

News of the sinking of the Lusitania was received with concern at the German embassy, but in the absence of Count von Bernstorff comment was withheld. Since the sailing of the Lusitania and the issuance of warnings to neutrals against use of enemy ships representatives of the Austro-German belligerents have repeatedly declared that while the submarine warfare was not directed against passenger ships, neutral passengers were traveling at great risk when they chose ships known to be carrying arms and ammunition. It was urged that Americans on vessels of the enemy were acting as a shield for contraband cargoes.

Wholly Unnecessary Risk.

It was stated emphatically that liners of France and England were continually carrying war supplies, and that passage upon them was a wholly unnecessary risk when neutral lines were still plying between America and Europe.

Diplomats friendly to the German allies and well informed as to the German war policy have repeatedly declared that under no circumstances would a submarine commander allow neutral passengers to come to harm unless the presence of the enemy made it unavoidable.

U. S. to Observe "Mothers' Day."

In observance of Mothers' day, the second Sunday in May, by executive order, the flag will fly tomorrow from the Treasury Department building as well as other government buildings throughout the nation. The captain of the watch has been directed to salute the flag by order of Acting Secretary Newton.

## MARKET IS UPSET BY OCEAN TRAGEDY

Entire New York Exchange List Affected by Destruction of Lusitania.

BIG DROP IN THE PRICES IS SHOWN AT THE OPENING

Bankers and Brokers Throng Offices in Financial District—Flurry Soon Subsides.

NEW YORK, May 8.—Stocks broke with extreme violence at the opening of the market today. The entire list was adversely affected by overnight developments relative to the sinking of the Lusitania, and heavy selling orders came from all over the country.

Opening prices were from 2 to 5 points below last night's close. Fifteen thousand shares of United States Steel were offered in one lot at 2 points below yesterday's close.

A torrent of selling orders was unleashed when the long range Transcontinental as well as English shares were among the weakest issues. Bethlehem Steel, a so-called war specialty, fell a fraction of the first offering, then dropped 5 points from last night's close. United States Steel was offered in one block of 15,000 shares at 52 1/2, against last night's close of 54 1/2. Westinghouse Electric opened with 6,000 shares at 82 1/2, against yesterday's close of 82. Studebaker declined 3 points. Reading, Goodrich, Baldwin Locomotive and American Car fell 4 to 5 points, and Copper fell 2 to 2 1/2 points. Trading was extremely active and the floor was thronged.

Offices Thronged With Customers.

Bankers and veteran brokers who have been accustomed to remain away from the financial district at the week end were down town early. Offices of stock exchange firms were thronged with customers and onlookers. The heads of the big international banking houses were on hand early and many private cables were received from London and the continent.

On the floor of the stock exchange the scene before the opening was one of suppressed excitement. A very large percentage of the 1,100 members gathered on the floor before the opening. The visitors' gallery was crowded, many of the spectators being women in Gray-coated use of the exchange in preparation for what promised to be a nerve-racking two-hour session.

During the first quarter of an hour trading was at the rate of more than 10,000 shares an hour in an almost unequal volume. In that period 158,100 shares were sold.

Nearly 400,000 Shares Sold.

Nearly 400,000 shares changed hands during the first half hour.

Recoveries, more or less complete, were recorded before the expiration of that period, indicating the substantial character of the bureau. The market became more normal as prices underwent readjustment and trading diminished in volume toward 11 o'clock. At that time the selling movement seemed to have lost its force.

At the opening level of prices a few stocks, notably Reading dropped to the low point reached July 30 last, the day before the stock exchange was closed because of the European war. Bear pressure was mildly effective in the later dealings, the list receding about a point from best prices. There was every indication, however, that the banks and stock exchange were in thorough accord and in control of the situation and that no reason existed for the exercise of unusual precautionary measures.

Intervention.

May—Did you say siege to the heart of that chap from Mexico? May—Yes; but father intervened.

## 'DON'T ROCK BOAT,' MR. STONE URGES

Senator Says United States Citizens Must Go Slow in Lusitania Case.

DECLARES AMERICANS ABOARD TOOK RISKS

Believes Gulfight Case Presents More Serious Situation for This Country.

Senator Stone of Missouri, chairman of the foreign relations committee of the Senate, in a statement given out today urged the citizens of the United States to go slow in the present crisis, referring to the Lusitania disaster. He said:

"The tragedy is of course to be profoundly regretted. If the reports as to the loss of life are true, the sympathies of the civilized world will be deeply stirred. But for us it seems to me that good sense dictates that we keep our heads until we get our bearings. It is a bad time to get rattled and act impulsively. Don't 'rock the boat.'"

Americans Took Risks.

"Without expressing an opinion as to our relations to this event or as to our duty in the premises, there are some facts we cannot overlook and are bound to consider. We cannot overlook the fact that the Lusitania was a British ship, flying the British flag and subject at any time to be put into the actual naval service of the government. In-

deed, it is stated that at the time she was attacked she was carrying military reservists to England for service in the British army.

"True, there were American citizens aboard, but it must not be forgotten that they went aboard a belligerent ship with full knowledge of the risk and after official warning by the German government. When on board a British vessel they were on British soil. Was not their position substantially equivalent to being within the walls of a fortified city? If American citizens stay within a city besieged or threatened and the enemy attacks, what should our government do if our citizens should be injured? I express no opinion at this time. I am merely suggesting reasons why we should maintain our equilibrium and not 'rock the boat' until we know what we are about."

Where We Come In.

"Aside from the possible loss of American lives, let us ask ourselves just where we come in."

"At the present moment and with the lights now before me, I confess that it appears to me that our standpoint as a neutral nation the Gulfight case presents a more delicate and serious complication than the case of the Lusitania."

Senator Stone reached Washington from the west. He had planned to go to Honolulu with a congressional party, but gave up the trip.

He was asked if he thought an extra session of Congress would be called. "It is possible, but I cannot say what the probability is," he replied.

Senator Stone will confer with the President this afternoon.

Why She Did It.

From London, May 8.

Mrs. Crosskey lived in the country. "Why do you insist on your new servants arriving Saturdays now?" a friend asked her one day.

"Well, I have had some experience with these modern girls," Mrs. Crosskey replied. "I used to engage them Mondays, but now I get them to come Saturdays."

"But why?" asked her neighbor.

"These no time to do my city until Monday afternoon," said Mrs. Crosskey, "and hubby is extremely partial to his Sunday dinner."

An extensive deposit of asphalt of superior quality has been discovered in the Philippines.

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See our nineteen new Randolph street houses and you will at once know the reasons.

Six and eight rooms (all big rooms).

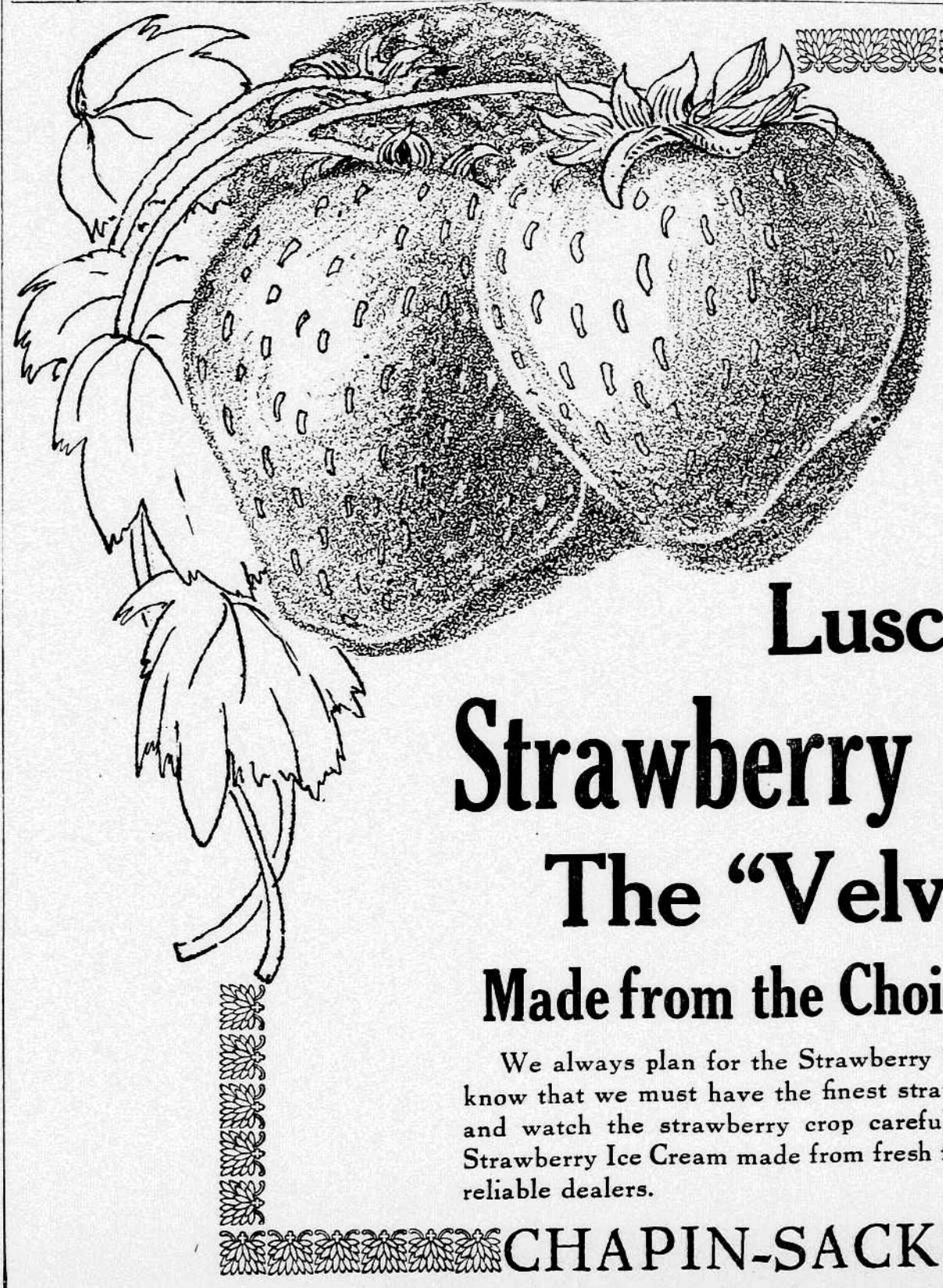
\$4,250	\$4,375	\$4,500	\$5,000
\$300 Cash		Balance, \$37.50	
Monthly, Including All Interest			

1344 South Carolina Ave. S.E., \$3,600.  
Newton Street between 18th and 19th, \$4,750.

\$250 and \$300 Cash. Balance like small rent.

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### It's Better to Keep Well—Than to Have to Get Well.

The big ailments that attack the system have their beginning through the inactivities of the kidneys and liver. Keep them functioning and you'll enjoy good health.

Tyree's S-L Remedy acts directly upon the kidneys and the liver. It's a new combination of old-fashioned remedies that will cure—but that cannot harm.

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### The Hard Job of Being a Crook

IT'S getting harder every day, as scientific analysis is being applied more and more effectively to the detection of crime.

"The coat of a locksmith contains a different kind of dust from the coat of a miller; the dust accumulating in the pockets of a school-boy is essentially different from that accumulating in the pockets of a chemist.

"In Europe a man was traced down and convicted of murder simply by the analysis of the dust in a coat that was found near the scene of the crime.

"The achievements of scientific detectives are far more thrilling than any fiction can possibly be."

Look for "The Hard Job of Being a Crook," one of the little articles that will interest you tomorrow in the

**Sunday Magazine**  
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**The Sunday Star**